

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/725,613
Response filed April 14, 2005
Reply to OA dated January 21, 2005

REMARKS

The drawings, Figures 9-11, have been amended as requested in the Office Action.

Claims 2-9 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. These claims have been so amended and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The only claim that is rejected on the basis of prior art is claim 1, which has been amended herein to clarify the same.

As now amended, claim 1 is to a waterproof grommet that has an elastic grommet main body, with a bellows portion, passing an electric wire therethrough, and two opposed ends, a first end arranged to be fixed to a fixed structure and a second end arranged to be fixed to a movable structure. A hold member is disposed on an outer surface of the grommet main body at an intermediate portion in a lengthwise direction of the grommet main body, whereby the hold member is mountable on a mounting part. Such an arrangement is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

Claim 1 was rejected as anticipated under 35 USC §102(b) by Farmer (U.S. 4,795,856). Reconsideration and removal of that rejection is respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to claim 1 and the following remarks.

In the Office Action it is alleged that Farmer shows an elastic grommet G on a main body containing wires and a hold member 4 disposed on the outer surface of the grommet main body intermediate the ends, with the hold member 4 mountable on a mounting part B (a bracket). While this may be so, there are many unobvious differences between the present claimed grommet and that

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of Farmer, some of which differences have been now incorporated into claim 1. In amended claim 1, the grommet body has a bellows portion, and two ends, one attachable to a fixed structure and another to a movable structure. Such an arrangement is not taught or suggested in Farmer and provides distinct advantages.

The Farmer apparatus for supporting a fiber optic cable does not teach or suggest an elastic grommet main body that has a bellows portion passing on electric wire therethrough, and two opposed ends, one arranged to be fixed to a fixed structure and the other arranged to be fixed to a movable structure as now called for in amended claim 1.

In view of the present amendments to claim 1 and the above remarks, claim 1, in addition to claims 2-9, is believed to be patentable, and early action towards allowance of claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

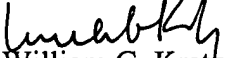
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Replacement Sheet of Drawing (Figs. 9-11)

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AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 9-11 adding the notation “Prior Art”. This sheet, which includes Fig. 9-11, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 9-11.